(b) if so, by when and the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these lines are essential particularly in the context of the commissioning of two more units at the Kolaghat Power Plant and for smooth running passenger trains; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) A survey has just been carried out for construction of additional Railway lines from Santragachi to Kharagpur. Survey report is under examination. Further decision would depend on results of survey and availability of resources in the coming years. No specific proposal has been received or is under consideration regarding Kolaghat Power Plant. Passenger trains are however running smoothly.

Double line to Bandel Thermal Power Station, West Bengal

1500. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bandel Thermal Power Station, West Bengal is provided with a single line for coal wagon movement;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider constructing double line for smooth movement of coal wagon; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Track network of Eastern and South Eastern Railways

1501. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to consider expanding of the track network of the Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway to facilitate the movement of coal wagons to the Kolaghat Power Plant and two other major power projects in the Offing at Bakreswar and Balagarh in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps so far taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi narrow Gauge into Broad Gauge

1502. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi narrow gauge into broad gauge has been included in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, by when the above conversion work is likely to be taken up and approximate period by which the work would be completed; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof and the amount sanctioned for this purpose as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) The section Latur-Kurduwadi has been included in Phase I of the action plan to convert MG/NG lines to BG. This phase will cover the VIII & IX plan periods. The work will be taken up in the coming years during this period subject to availability of resources. Estimated amount will be worked out at the time of taking up the work.

Upgrading and Promotional opportunities for Wireless Operators

1503. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a long-pending demand has been lying with Railways regarding upgradation and promotional opportunities for the Wireless Operators in the Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the agreement entered into with the Wireless Operators in 1984 has not been implemented so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to technological development and installation of improved methods of communication including Teleprinter Circuits over Microwave system in replacement of the existing H.F. Telegraphy links on the Railways, the category of wireless operators was getting progressively shrunk. A decision was therefore, taken to freeze the Cadre of the Wireless Operators and redeploy them on Teleprinter service after giving proper training. However, the scope for promotion of the existing staff has been kept.

In 1984, a proposal for restructuring of the Cadre of Wireless Operators was formulated. However, this was not approved as it was held that in view of the conversion process of Wireless Operators to the Teleprinter working, most of the Wireless Operators could be fitted into Teleprinter side and restructuring of Wireless Operators might act as disincentive to switching over process.

Electrification of Pune-Wadi section of South Central Railway

1504. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to electrify the Pune-Wadi section of South Central Railway in the current year;

(b) if not, whether Government have considered the need for such electrification and by when the project is likely to be taken up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to constraint of resources and relative priorities for electrification of other high density routes, there is, at present, no proposal to electrify Pune-Wadi Section of South Central Railway.

Conversion of metre Gauge to Broad Gauge

1505. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Northern Railway propose to convert the 443 kilometres of metre gauge track into broad gauge track during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Kanpur-Lucknow broad gauge line is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as follows :

(i) Merta Road-Lalgarh	177
(ii) Lalgarh-Kolayat	47
(iii) Kotkapura-Fazilka	80
(iv) Lucknow-Kanpur	56
(v) Rewari-Delhi	83
	443 kms.

(c) During the financial year 1992-93.

Finalisation of tenders at Divisional Level

1506. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are the guidelines issued in regard to finalising tenders at Divisional Level and whether they are followed in true spirit at Vijayawada Division of S.C. Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :

Guidelines in respect of finalisation of tenders are contained in the Indian Railways Code for Engineering Department (Revised Edition) 1989 (as amended from time to time) which is a priced publication. Compliance of these guidelines/provisions is compulsory for all concerned with tenders of civil engineering works.